

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 /076 W

----- 026590

R 091504Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EC

SUBJ: NEW MINISTERS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FINANCE SEND UP
SOOTHING SMOKE SIGNALS

REF: QUITO 6652

1. THE NEW CABINET WAS SWORN IN SEPTEMBER 8 AT 6:00 P.M. TWO
OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS, MINISTER OF FINANCE MORILLO AND
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES DUENAS, IMMEDIATELY SENT UP SMOKE
SIGNALS WHICH OUGHT TO REASSURE BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL CIRCLES.

2. MORILLO IS QUOTED IN THE QUITO SEPTEMBER 9 PRESS AS SAYING
THAT A STUDY WILL BE MADE OF DECREE 738 WHICH IMPOSED HEAVY
DUTIES ON IMPORTS AND "IF NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS WILL BE
INTRODUCED". HE IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT FROM THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW THE DECREE HAD THE
EFFECT OF INCREASING PRICES, SOMETHING WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR
HAD ADAMANTLY DENIED. FURTHER, HE OFFERED TO SEEK A DIALOG
WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND TO "FAVOR PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES".

3. MINISTER DUENAS, WHILE DECLINING TO REVEAL THE PRICE
POLICY WHICH ECUADOR WOULD FOLLOW AT THE NEXT MEETING OF
OPEC, SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS HE WOULD OBTAIN PREFERENTIAL
TREATMENT FOR ECUADOREAN CRUDE. THIS CAN ONLY MEAN THAT
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ECUADOR WILL PRICE ITS CRUDE BELOW THAT OF ITS

COMPETITORS IN ORDER TO PLACE IT. DUENAS ALSO SAID THAT
IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTENSIFY PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN
THE COUNTRY.

4. WE SHALL SEE.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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